

Some Bay of Quinte Reminiscences




AN ADDRESS BEFORE THE
U. E. L. ASSOCIATION AT
TORONTO, DELIVERED ON
APRIL 27th, 1922

—BY—
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Address delivered by W. C. MIKEL, U. E. L., B. C. L.,
K. C., of Belleville, Ontario, before the United
Empire Loyalists' Association at Toronto
April 27th, 1922, on "Some Bay
of Quinte Reminiscences."

QUINTE DISTRICT

THE Bay of Quinte District of Ontario is full of historical interest. The Bay is really a part of Lake Ontario separated from the Lake by what was by nature the peninsula of Prince Edward County, and the territory surrounding the Bay is usually spoken of as the Bay of Quinte District. It is situated about 100 miles east of Toronto, about 200 miles west of Montreal and about 80 miles north of Rochester, N. Y., and is now traversed by the three Canadian Transcontinental Railway lines. Canniff Haight in his "Life in Canada" says:—"The Bay of Quinte apart from its delightful scenery, possesses an historical interest. It was along its shores that the first settlers of the Province located. Here came the first preachers, offering to the lonely settler the bread of life. On its banks the first house devoted to the worship of God was erected, and the seed sown here, as the country grew, spread abroad. Here the first schoolmaster began his vocation of instructing the youth. The first steamboat was launched (1816) upon its waters at Ernestown, near the present village of Bath." This District has sometimes been called "The Six Nations" from the fact that when Governor Simcoe divided Upper Canada into nineteen counties in 1792, six of them bordered on or touched the Bay of Quinte. It has also been called the "Cradle Land" of Ontario and Western Canada.

ORIGIN OF NAME

The name "Quinte" was formerly spelled "Kanty" and was taken from the early French Catholic Mission for the Indians which was located on the

south shore of what is now Prince Edward County. The work of the Mission extended throughout the County and the territory bordering on the Bay, hence the name was applied to the Bay.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

Capt. Michael Grass is entitled to the credit for the settlement of the United Empire Loyalists in this District after the close of the American Revolutionary War. He had been a soldier in the British Forces in America before Canada was taken by the British and in an encounter between the British and French forces was taken prisoner by the French and held for over two years. During his captivity he learned of the splendid soil, mineral wealth and good climate of the territory that afterwards became Upper Canada, and he recommended it to the British at the close of the war, 1783, for settlement. On September 8th, 1783, five vessels of Loyalists set sail from New York via the Gulf of St. Lawrence and St. Lawrence River, for this new land. They wintered at Sorel, Quebec, and in the summer of 1784 went to the Bay of Quinte District, landing at Adolphustown, June 16, 1784. During the following seven or eight years small parties of Loyalists came over by way of the Hudson River, Lake Oneida, Mohawk River to Oswego and thence across Lake Ontario to Kingston, whence they spread over the Bay of Quinte District and other parts of Upper Canada. Some came by Lake Champlain to Lower Canada and either settled there or proceeded west.

CONDITIONS WHEN THEY LANDED

When the Loyalists landed in their new home they came to native forests with no roads, churches, schools or houses. They brought nothing with them but the **spirit of sacrifice and loyalty** and the **consciousness** of duty well done, which were greater than all the material wealth brought into Canada by all the immigrants that have since arrived. When they arrived here they were given tracts of virgin forest of no saleable value, also some food and clothing and a few tools and implements, but very little of material value, certainly not as much as they left behind them. They were, however, given the right to be British, to remain within the Empire and enjoy its freedom and protection, which to them were worth everything.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The framers of the famous Declaration of Independence of 1776 put into that document the words "all men are created equal" and "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No sooner had they adopted these words than they proceeded to violate these inalienable rights, of a very large minority of their most respectable and law abiding fellow colonists, by enacting laws aimed directly against their lives, their liberty and happiness, imposing confiscation, banishment and the death penalty. The legislation of some states even named in statutes list of persons without trial, upon whom they imposed these penalties.

CANADIAN IDEALS

The early French Christian Missionaries who came to Canada and the U. E. Loyalists, sacrificed not only treasure but also blood for their respective ideals. The early French settlers' ideals were religious, namely, the spreading of the Christian Religion among the Indians. The ideals of the U. E. Loyalists were Loyalty to the Empire and the continuance of British Institutions. The ideals of neither were at the beginning commercial. The general character of the ideals of each class have remained quite marked to the present day. As the door posts of Canada are sprinkled with the blood of sacrifice of these two peoples, we may expect the fulfilment of the promise that when the Destroying Angel comes along and sees the sign of the blood of sacrifice he will pass by and not disrupt this great Dominion and its ideals.

FAMOUS BAY OF QUINTE MEN

Among the men whom the Bay of Quinte District has given to Canada may be mentioned the following:—Christopher Robinson, a Benchman and member for Lennox & Addington in the Legislative Assembly, father of Sir John Beverley Robinson; Sir George Kirkpatrick; Sir Allen Aylesworth; Sir Alex Campbell; Hon. Louis Wallbridge and Hon. Hector M. Howell, both Chief Justices of Manitoba; Sir Rodmond Roblin; Hon. Mr. Justice Phippen; Hon. Mr. Justice Clute; Rt. Hon. Sir John A. MacDonald; Hon. Alex. Mackenzie; Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell; Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright; Hon. Sir Oliver Mowatt; Sir

Frederick Doure; Hon. Chief Justice John Douglas Armour; Hon. Wm. Kerr, K.C.; Hon. Henry Corby; W. H. Biggar, K.C., President; W. D. Robb, Vice-President; John Bell, K.C., Chief Counsel, Grand Trunk Railway Company; George M. Clarke, K.C., General Counsel Canadian Pacific Railway Company; Col. S. S. Lazier; Sir Gilbert Parker, Bart.; Major General J. Lyons Biggar; Brig.-General H. B. Hepburn; Hon. Mr. Justice Riddell; Hon. Mr. Justice Sherwood; Hon. Mr. Justice John Edward Rose; Hon. Mr. Justice Hugh McMahon; Hon. Mr. Justice Britton; Albert Carman, D.D.; Col. A. P. Deroche; Mathew Joseph Butler, C.M.G.; Hon. Edmund Bristol, K.C.; Dr. Oronhyatekha; Major-Gen. Sir Archibald MacDonald. Most of these men were U. E. Loyalists. Those who were not, spent most of their lives in this District from childhood up, and received their inspirations from the Loyalists. The above list contains three Ex-Premiers of Canada, three Ex-Ministers of Justice; three Ex-Lieut.-Governors of Ontario and three Provincial Premiers.

U. E. L. FAMILIES

Among the well known U. E. Loyalist families of this District may be mentioned Aylesworth, Cartwright, Wallbridge, Lazier, Burdett, Macauley, Roblin, Howell, Parliament, Bleecker, Hubbs, Madden, Ackerman, Deroche, Canniff, Herrington, Mikel, Bogart, Conger, Cooper, Goldsmith, Van Alstine, Bedell, Huff, Van Dusen, Ruttan, Solmes, Pringle, Purcell, Sprague, Way, Allison, Weese, Grass, Young, Ostan-der, Hicks, Haight, Gilbert, Meyers, Clarke, Rose, Chisholm, Dorland, Minaker, Wellbanks, Palen, Dulmage, McDonald, Bongard, Cronk, Griffis, Peterson, Ben, Jones, Fisher, Clapp, McMaster, Stevenson, Pitman, Brooks, Vallau, Cornell, Delyea, Huyck, Benson, Barker, Wannamaker, Rutter, Vanhorn, Trumpour, Carnahan, Hagerman, Maybee, Tice, Ferguson, Cole, Noxon, Fairfield, Bog, Carstairs, Curlette, Mal-lory, Merrell, Platt, Abercrombie. Ham, Singleton, Finkle, White, Sine, Reed, Taylor, Simmons, Carscallen, Dougall, Mouck, Parcells, Dempsey, Anderson, Peck, Bonter, Spencer, Striker, Spafford, Dyer, Blake-ly, Zufelt, Peters, Rogers, Ogden. Richards, Stinson, Marsh, Smith, Redner. De Long, Williams, Pettit, Crandall, Rowe, Van De Voort, Ashley, Harrison,

Bonisteel, Diamond, Flagler, Daley, Shibley, De Nike, De Mille, Fraser, Farrington, Hawley, Lott, Hughes, Hess, Hendricks, Longwell, Hogle, Knight, Kelly, Lake, Ostrom, Morrison, Munshaw, Storms, Osborne, Purdy, Wright, Palmer, Stickle, Waldron, VanVlack, Windover, Vrooman, Lyon, Zwick, Van Blaricom, Ketcheson, Alyea, Vanderwaters, Chase, Conklin.

The spelling of some of these names has slightly changed during the intervening years, sometimes more than once. These do not by any means exhaust the list of leading U. E. Loyalist families of the Bay of Quinte District, and mention must be made of at least one more family. In several Townships of Prince Edward County, and in other counties we find the name of Morden prominent, and in 1878—44 years ago—Belding's History says: The Mordens were not only among the pioneers of Prince Edward County but the influence exerted by the family in all affairs of this County and respective Townships was of a character commensurate with their superior intelligence and high social position." I may add that during the last 44 years further lustre and distinction has been added to this family.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Capt. John Walden Meyers built the first mill at what is now the City of Belleville in 1790. After the erection of this mill the little hamlet that had been called Thurlow Village, began to be called Meyers Creek, and so continued till it was named Belleville, in 1816. In 1794 Capt. John Meyers built the first brick house in Upper Canada. It was erected on the brow of the east hill which is now in the heart of the residential part of Belleville, and it stood for 90 years. It is said that Capt. Meyers is entitled to more credit for bringing Loyalists into this District than anyone except Capt. Michael Grass.

John Simpson built the first real tavern in the district in 1798 at the corner of what is now Dundas and Front Streets, Belleville. Part of the old tavern still stands, and it was so substantially built, that it is still serviceable as a blacksmith shop.

On a visit of Governor Gore to Meyers Creek in 1816 he stopped at this hotel where a grand Ball was given in his honour attended by the prominent citizens of the territory from Carrying Place to Napa-

nee Mills. On this occasion it was decided to name the village "Belleville" after Lady Bella Gora, the Governor's wife. In that year Simon McNabb was appointed the first Postmaster of Belleville.

In 1799 the Hastings County Militia was organized. John Ferguson, Lt.-Colonel; Alex. Chisholm, Major; and Wm. Bell, Captain.

Phillip Dorland was the first representative from Prince Edward County elected to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada but as he was a Quaker he could not take the oath. The seat was declared vacant and Phillip Van Alstine was elected in his stead.

Edward Hicks and his father were captured during the American Revolutionary War and condemned as spies though they claimed to be simply prisoners of war. The father was put to death in the presence of his son at Boston. This so enraged Edward that he killed his guard, got away and after hiding for nine days with little food, succeeded in getting within the British lines. He afterwards settled in Prince Edward County.

Major Van Alstine who had first settled at Hay Bay in 1784, in 1796 built mills and a store at Lake-on-the-Mountain.

CARRYING PLACE

It was at one time thought that the Carrying Place would be the capitol of the new Province of Upper Canada, and Capt. Young of the Royal Navy settled there and drew 1,200 acres influenced by that belief. The Carrying Place was a narrow neck of land forming part of Prince Edward County, which separated the water of Lake Ontario from the Bay of Quinte, and across which boats were carried or hauled. As water was the principal means of travel and transportation, the Carrying Place became a busy centre. Governor Simcoe was a friend of Young and endeavored to persuade him to move to York and exchange his 1,200 acres at the Carrying Place for 1,200 acres on what is now Yonge St., Toronto. Capt. Young could not be induced to do so, and as a result some of his descendants are still residing on a part of the old grant at the Carrying Place whereas they might have been Toronto millionaires.

BELL PAPERS—PRICES

The late Col. Wm. Bell who died at the Township of Thurlow the early part of last century was very systematic in keeping old papers. He was one of the earliest merchants in this district as well as a Justice of the Peace and Commanding Officer of the Hastings Militia, and School Teacher. The late Dr. Canniff got possession of his papers and they have now passed to the Lennox and Addington Historical Association. Among these is some interesting information as to wages and the prices of commodities in 1790, as follows—half gallon of salt sold to Godlove Mikel for 1s. 3d. Day's wages paid to Thos. Calquhan 1s. 8d. So that at that time a half gallon of salt was worth nearly a day's wages. On the same basis a half gallon of salt would be worth now between \$3.00 and \$4.00. Another party bought a pound of tobacco at 3s. and 6d. and was allowed to pay for it in work, his wages being 2s. per day, so that a pound of tobacco was worth over a day and a half wages. A yard of calico sold at 5s. per yard—2½ day's wages. A pound of loaf sugar 2s. or a day's wages.

TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS

When the Loyalists arrived the Government provided them with some tools. Their most important need, of course, going into the forest, was the ordinary woodman's long handled axe. Instead they were provided with what is called a ship's axe which has a long blade and a short handle, thus increasing the difficulty of the new settlers attacking the forest.

The next important farming implement furnished was the spade. No other could be used among the stumps.

FOOD—HUNGER YEAR

The chief food for the early years after their arrival consisted of wild rice. Indian corn and pumpkin in addition to fish and wild game.

The Government furnished some articles of food for a couple of years, but the first year during which this practice was discontinued, 1787-8, the crops of the Loyalists proved a failure. Even food supplies intended for the employees of the Government did not arrive. Starvation faced many. Some of the best farms of the district were offered for a bag of flour and a large beef bone was passed around one neighborhood

with which to make soup. People resorted to basswood buds, or anything possible for food. It was called "hunger year." The Loyalists had apparently not learned how to fish under the ice or perhaps had not the appliances for such fishing. On account of a shortage of ammunition that year their hunting was also very limited.

CLOTHING

The Government for a time gave out rough clothes, and also blankets from which clothes were sometimes made. Other than these their clothes for both men and women were made from skins of animals. These skins also served for blankets. It was not possible to procure wool as there was not enough land cleared to maintain sheep and the danger to sheep from wolves and bears was too great to justify keeping them if they could have raised the food.

ANIMALS

The early settlers did not at that time nor till about the year 1795 obtain any food animals or beasts of burden. If they had been able to procure animals, they could not have raised enough food to winter them over owing to the small clearings for the first 8 or 10 years. If they could have procured them and wintered them, these animals would in all probability have been destroyed by the wolves and bears.

LIGHT

Their only light for the house consisted of the blazing embers of the large fire place in winter or a pine knot torch in summer. As the years went on and they became able to keep animals from which tallow could be procured, they made tallow dips, so called from the method of making them, that is by dipping a cord or string into melted tallow spread over water contained in a pail or other vessel. By repeating the operation a number of times, enough of the tallow adhered to the cord to make a candle. These were used only on very special occasions.

STEAMBOAT

The first steamboat operated in Upper Canada was the "Frontenac" and was built in this district near Bath in 1815 and the second one in 1818.

LIBRARY

The first public Library in Upper Canada was started in this district at Bath in 1811.

PRINYER'S COVE

Prinyer's Cove so well and favorably known by all yachtsmen frequenting the Bay of Quinte, took its name from John Prinyer of French descent who married the only daughter of Col. Alex. McDonald, a Loyalist who settled on this Cove in 1784.

CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS

If there is one class in Canada that should develop class consciousness it is the United Empire Loyalists. For the good of Canada and for the good of the Empire, it is important that their deeds, their service, their sacrifices, their unselfish adherence to a noble principle, their loyalty, should be more emphasized. The moving pictures, the school books, the newspapers, our Canadian story writers, the speakers on patriotic occasions should tell the wonderful story. The general theme as well as the wealth of detail form an inexhaustible supply of material—intrigue, adventure, oppression, pathos, war, everything to grip the attention and stir the imagination.

By class consciousness is not meant class snobishness or class selfishness but a fixed belief that the member of the class have been called to follow a noble principle and serve a noble cause and make a generous sacrifice.

These people were not content to sell all that they had and follow their Leader, but they gave all they had and buried a whole generation in the northern wilderness.

LOCATING LOTS

Most of these people arrived even before the surveyor had marked out lots, concessions or townships in the native forests. Often when the U. E. Loyalist drew his lot of land he had no knowledge as to where it was situated. After days of searching in the forests he sometimes settled on a lot, which, after several years of hard labor had been put upon it, was found to belong to someone else.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

Service, and the spirit that impels one to make sacrifices for some noble principle, are the demand of

the age. During that eventful period of eight years, from 1775 to 1783, the men who took up arms on the side of the British, in the territory included in the newly declared Republic during the American Revolutionary War, and after its close came over to that part of Canada which was but a primeval forest, rendered a service and made a sacrifice for the maintenance of British Institutions that has not been surpassed anywhere.

They were mostly persons of education and means. They gave up comfortable homes and worldly possessions, broke the ties of friendship and family, forsook opportunities for acquisition of wealth and went to the unknown lonely Northland, there to encounter for at least two generations, sufferings, hardships, and privation not since encountered by any pioneers.

SCENE FOR A MOVIE

The moving pictures could show very interesting scenes from the lives of these great people. Take an actual case. A man and his wife who had been well educated and brought up amid the comforts of a long settled part of New York State, where the husband owned a farm which now forms part of a prosperous city of that State. After the close of the war, 1783, deciding to go where they can be under the protection of the British Flag and enjoy British Institutions, they start for the new part of Canada. After weeks of weary travel harassed along the way by hostile citizens of the new Republic at last they land on the south shore of Lake Ontario. They embark in a frail craft with little else than the family Bible and a small quantity of food. As they pass out into the Lake they hear the rattle of shot dropping on the water from guns in the hands of Indians or persons disguised as Indians, perhaps to injure, perhaps only to terrorize. After a long pull across the Lake and a sojourn at Frontenac they pass up the placid waters of the picturesque Bay of Quinte. All fear is now gone. That horrible eight year nightmare of war has disappeared. Only the husky mosquito, the tantalizing fly, the howling wolves and prowling bears are with them. The surveyor's work is done. They have picked their lot in what is now the northern part of the first concession of the Township of Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, on the shore

of the Bay. The battle for a home starts against the mighty virgin forest. At last the settler triumphs and the forest reluctantly and stubbornly yields a roof and walls of logs. There is no lumber to be had so there are no doors or windows, only openings covered with quilts or bark or whatever can be had. The fireplace furnishes the only light. A clearing appears bit by bit, and a little grain is raised. A hollowed stump and a rounded stone produce the only flour obtainable. Sixty miles away at Frontenac is a primitive flour mill which produced flour no one in the present age would use. Just before the Bay freezes over for the winter, the settler puts a couple of bags of grain in a canoe and paddles sixty miles down the Bay to this primitive mill; gets it milled into crude flour and paddles back, just to have a little something extra for Christmas to remind the family of the happy Christmas days before the war.

Scenes like these at the movies would teach lessons of service and sacrifice. They would show how this great Canada was saved for the Empire and made available for two million homes with comforts far beyond the dreams of that early settler. At least one generation deliberately sacrificed itself for a noble principle. Those who to-day scramble for place, or power or wealth, those who are restless and discontented with their lot would do well to study the lives of the U. E. Loyalists.

A scene could be taken from the early log schools showing desks made by inserting small sticks into the wall and placing a plank on top of these with scholars sitting on a rough backless bench facing the log walls at one of these desks, as a contrast to the schools of to-day.

IMMIGRANTS

The Treaty concluding the American Revolutionary War by which England conceded the Independence of the United States of America was signed in 1783. During the next two years most of the U. E. Loyalists arrived, but small parties of Loyalists continued to arrive from time to time for the next few years. All were scrutinized with great care to avoid the admission of former enemies of the King. When, however, John Graves Simcoe became Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada after the Constitutional Act, 1791,

he issued a proclamation inviting all to come into Upper Canada who wished. The result was that many were admitted to the country who were believed to possess feelings hostile to the British system of Government, and it is claimed they occasioned trouble during the war of 1812-15 and had considerable responsibility for the sentiment that made possible the rising of 1837. Some of these hostile newcomers gave information and other assistance to the enemy in the war of 1812-1815, and others actually enlisted in a corps raised to aid the enemy by a man named Wilcocks, who at the time was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. Wilcocks was afterwards shot while in the ranks of the enemy in an attack on Fort Erie.

Canada is still receiving immigrants from the United States and from Europe, and it is of the highest importance that every influence should be employed to Canadianize this incoming population. Our school books and histories and our newspapers should contain accounts of the courage and heroism of these U. E. Loyalists. Properly told, they could not fail to compel admiration. They would inspire the newcomer and his children to follow the example of their noble and unselfish deeds, and in following the example of their deeds they would necessarily be led to follow the example of their loyalty. After a time Canadians would cease to have any diffidence about waving the flag of their country.

U. E. L. AND FAMILY COMPACT

Some have blamed the U. E. Loyalists or their descendants for the wrongs of the Family Compact. This is an error. Many of the U. E. Loyalists or their descendants suffered from the selfishness of the Family Compact, and opposed their wrongs. They would not however, go the length of taking up arms against the Government in the discreditable fiasco of 1837.

U. E. LOYALISTS—HEREDITARY TITLE

On the 9th of November, 1789, the Canadian Government, when Lord Dorchester was Governor-General, created the only hereditary Title of Honor that has been created in Canada, and there is no likelihood of this being repeated in the future. This Title of Honor was conferred on the U. E. Loyalists and

their descendants. Is it any wonder that this Noble Order of Unity of the Empire was created and conferred? Is it any wonder that these people have been thus singled out and preferred? Too often titles of honor have been conferred upon persons because they have acquired wealth or political distinction, thus in a measure emphasizing their selfishness. This Title was created and conferred because the recipients had lost all, had sacrificed all and had served so well. If there ever was a Title of Honor of which the possessors should be proud, it is this noble one. It is not inherited because an ancestor basked in the sunshine of a Prince's favor, but because an ancestor nobly fought and suffered and sacrificed.

MARK OF HONOUR—DISTINGUISHED BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

The Governor-in-Council on the date mentioned, directed that a "Mark of Honour" be placed upon those families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire and joined the Royal Standard in America before the treaty of Separation in the year 1783. Also that a Register be made of their names "to the end that their posterity may be discriminated from future settlers as proper objects for distinguished benefits and privileges." The Register made pursuant to this Order-in-Council is called "The U. E. Loyalists Roll or List.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH UNANIMOUS IN CONFERRING TITLE

This distinction given the U. E. Loyalists was not merely an act of a few ultra loyal Englishmen for the Council creating it was composed of Frenchmen Irishmen, Scotchmen, as well as Englishmen. Those present when the order was made were the following—La Compte Dupre, Hon. Chas. De Le Naudier, Hon. Francois Baby, Hon. J. G. C. De Leray, Hon. Adam Mabane, Hon. John Collins, Hon. Thos. Dunn, Hon. Wm. Grant, Hon. Hugh Findley, Hon. Edward Harrison, Hon. George Pownall, Hon. Henry Caldwell and Chief Justice William Smith. It was conferred regardless of nationality, origin, politics or religion. Jacobites, Huguenots, Indians, French, English, Dutch, Protestants, Catholics, were among those who received it.

MOST EXCLUSIVE TITLE IN EMPIRE

The Title stands unique and alone in the British Empire. No more can have that "Mark of Honor" placed upon them. The time will come when it will be regarded as the greatest and most exclusive Title of Honor in the Empire. Men will battle in court to have their right to it declared. People will pay large sums to genealogists to search out their family history and endeavor to trace it to a U. E. Loyalist. As the families possessing Dukedoms, Earldoms, Baronetcies die out and the Title become extinct, other similar titles can readily be conferred so as to keep up the numbers and the numbers can be increased according to the King's wish. As the U. E. Loyalists' families die out the loss cannot be supplied.

U. E. L. CHARACTERISTICS

The characteristics of the U. E. Loyalists are loyalty, unselfishness and humility. They are not boastful of the undying services rendered by their ancestors to the Empire. Many who possess this Title of Honor scarcely know it, and none assert their right to be "discriminated" from other citizens as "objects for distinguished benefits and privileges" to which they are entitled under the Order-in-Council.

JUSTIFICATION

It is a source of satisfaction to Loyalists to find that the position taken by them at the time of the Revolution has since been appreciated even by prominent citizens of the United States, as the following references will show:

The following is an extract from a letter of General Israel Putnam, a distinguished and well known General of the American Revolutionary Army, to Col. Beverley Robinson, dated May 14th, 1783, which letter is still among the records of the Robinson family. "Whenever I think seriously upon the situation of this country, I cannot but bewail my folly in the part which I have acted. There was a time when I firmly believed that a separation from the mother country would be the greatest blessing to this. But alas! experience—too late experience—has convinced me as well thousands of others how very erroneous this opinion was." See "Life of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Bart," by Major-General C. W. Robinson, C. B.

If there are any persons in any part of the Empire who favor separation they would do well to ponder the above cited words of General Putnam of the American Revolutionary army.

Over one hundred years afterwards, at the dedication of the monument erected on Dorchester Heights, Boston, to commemorate the evacuation of Boston by the British, the oration of the day was delivered by Hon. Senator Hoar of the U. S. Senate, in the course of which he said: "The Government of England was in the main, a gentle Government, much as our fathers complaint of it. Her yoke was easy and her burden light. Our fathers were a hundred times better off in 1775 than were the men of Kent, the vanguard of liberty in England. There was more happiness in Middlesex on the Concord than there was in Middlesex on the Thames." See address by James H. Stark of Boston, Mass., (Author of "The Other Side of the Revolution") on "The United Empire Loyalists" Vol. VII. U. E. L. Proceedings.

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt referring to the mob outrages in New York in 1775 writes: "It is impossible to paint in too dark colors the ferocity of the strife The mob broke into and plundered the house of wealthy Loyalists, rode on rails or tarred, feathered or otherwise brutally maltreated them or utterly refused to others the liberty of speech they so vociferously demanded for themselves." (Same authority).

"At the close of the war, the Revolutionists committed a great crime. Instead of repealing the Proscription and Banishment Acts, as justice and good policy required, they manifested a spirit to place the humbled and unhappy Loyalists beyond the pale of human sympathy." (Same authority.)

P R E S E N T

The Bay of Quinte District now contains a population of about 125,000. Its farms, that could not produce enough to supply the Loyalists with food, now supply food enough for its large population and send food to Europe valued at several millions of pounds sterling annually. Its waters produce fish for its own population and also for the tables of Toronto, Montreal and U. S. cities. It has over a dozen newspapers and its northern sections are still

supplying pulp-wood for the production of newspapers elsewhere. Its mineral wealth, scarcely touched as yet, consists of some of the best iron in the world. Also arsenic, silver, mica, marble equal to the Italian marble, talc, graphite, corundum and other minerals. It contains good roads including asphalt pavements. Its industries send their products to every part of Canada. It has an abundance of electric power produced from inexhaustible rivers, at a low cost. It is on the main waterway from the head of navigation to the sea, and the three transcontinental railways run through this territory.

FUTURE

With all these advantages, there is every reason to believe that as Ontario grows, there will be a city of between 300,000 and 400,000 population located on the north shores of the Bay of Quinte, in this interesting and historical district containing happy, prosperous and contented homes of British subjects within the Empire, all due to the action of the United Empire Loyalists.

SEPARATION NOT ORIGINALLY DESIRED

In the Autumn of 1774 a general convention of twelve colonies was held at Philadelphia. Georgia did not send any delegates. The convention passed a Bill of Rights, an address to the King and an address to the people of Great Britain, a memorial to the Americans and a letter to the people of Canada. There was no suggestion of separation. They entreated His Majesty "to remove such grievances, and restore to Great Britain and the colonies that harmony so necessary to the happiness of the British Empire, and so ardently desired by all America."

In the address to the British people, a statement appears "you have been told that we are seditious, impatient of government and desirous of independence, be assured these are not facts, but calumnies."

At a meeting of the Continental Congress on October 21st, 1774, an address to the British people contained the following, "how can we suppress our astonishment that a British Parliament should ever consent to establish in that country (Canada) a religion that has deluged your island in blood and dispersed

impiety, bigotry, persecution, murder and rebellion through every part of the world, and we think that the Legislature of Great Britain is not authorized to establish a religion fraught with such sanguinary and infamous results." (The reference is to the Quebec Act 1774.)

In November, 1775, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed a resolution containing these words, "though the oppressive measures of the British Parliament and administration have compelled us to resist their violence by force of arms, yet we strictly inform you that we in behalf of this colony dissent from and utterly reject any propositions, should such be made, that may cause or lead to separation from the Mother Country, or change the form of Government."

At the General Congress in May, 1776, Independence was first proposed, only four colonies were in favor. At the session June 7, 1776, it was discussed. On July 1, 1776, the vote was six for and six against, and on July 4, 1776, it was passed by a majority and then made unanimous. It is significant that the colony of Quebec did not join in any of these meetings.

4-5 GEORGE V

Chapter 146

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

(Assented to May 27th, 1914)

WHEREAS the United Empire Loyalists Association of Ontario was incorporated under the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1897, Chapter 172, being an Act respecting, Benevolent, Provident and other Societies; and whereas the said Association have by their petition prayed to be incorporated by the Parliament of Canada so that they may extend their operations to all the provinces and territories of Canada under the control of one central body, and it is ex-

pedient to grant the prayer of the said petition. Therefore His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada enacts as follows:

1. Colonel George Sterling Ryerson, M.D., Toronto; Lieut.-Colonel George Taylor Denison, Toronto; Lieut.-Colonel George Alexander Shaw, Toronto; Sir John Beverly Robinson, Bart., Edgewater, New Jersey; Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C., Vancouver; Sir Allen Aylesworth, K.C., Toronto; Major W. Napier Keefer, Toronto; The Reverend Canon Alexander Wellesley Macnab, Toronto; Lieut.-Colonel William Hamilton Merritt, Toronto; His Honor Hedley Clarence Taylor, Edmonton; George Durnford, Montreal; Rufus Shorey Nevill, K.C., Toronto; Mary E. Dignam, Toronto; John S. Carstairs, Toronto; Allen Ross Davis, Toronto; Charles Egerton Macdonald, Toronto; Helen M. Meril, Toronto; Victor A. Hall, Toronto; Alfred Brown, Halifax; George H. Ham, Montreal; John Alexander Macdonell, K. C., Alexandria; Albert J. Hill, New Westminster; J. J. Gregory, Lacombe; Arthur Edmund Preston Hill, C.E., Vancouver; Eugene Alexander MacLaurin, Toronto; H. S. Seaman, Winnipeg; and their associates and successors are hereby created a body corporate and politic by the name of "The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada" hereinafter called "The Association."

2. The head office of the Association shall be in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

3. The purpose of the Association shall be:

(a) To unite together, irrespective of creed or political party, the descendants of those families who, during the American Revolutionary War of 1775 to 1783 sacrificed their homes in retaining their loyalty to the British Crown; and to perpetuate this spirit of loyalty to the Empire:

(b) To preserve the history and traditions of that important epoch in Canadian history by rescuing from oblivion the history and traditions of the loyalist families before it is too late:

(c) To collect together in a suitable place the portraits, documents, books, weapons, flags, monu-

ments, memorials and all other articles and things relating to the United Empire Loyalists, which are now scattered throughout Canada and elsewhere:

(d) To publish an historical and genealogical journal or annual transactions:

(e) To erect, construct and repair buildings, monuments, memorials and also to purchase real estate and other things that may be considered desirable to perpetuate the memory of the United Empire Loyalists:

4. The Association shall be governed by a central council the number of whose members as well as their term of office and mode of election shall be determined by by-law of the Association.

5. The Association may make by-laws for the guidance of its officers and members, the control and the management of its funds, and generally for regulating every matter and thing proper or necessary to be done for the good of the Association and the prosecution of its objects and business.

6. Subject to provincial laws, the Association may acquire by devise, bequest, purchase, gift or lease, such real property not exceeding in the aggregate the value of fifty thousand dollars, as is required for its actual use and occupation and carrying out of its objects, and may sell, lease or otherwise dispose of same.

7. The Association may succeed to and take over all rights and property now held and enjoyed by the Association known as the United Empire Loyalists Association of Ontario upon the consent being obtained by a majority of the members of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Ontario present at a meeting called for the purpose of which due notice has been given, as far as practicable, to all the members of the said Association.

(a) The transfer to the Association of such rights and property shall, however, be made subject to any liabilities due by the United Empire Loyalist Association of Ontario.

THE NAME AMERICA

There are some twenty-five separate countries in America with large populations. For some reason the United States of America has assumed the name America and the people residing in that country have assumed the name Americans.

If England should assume the name of Europe and the people of England should assume the name Europeans there would probably be considerable criticism.

This action of the people of the United States may not be due to conceit or unfairness. It may be due to the difficulty arising from the fact that their country has no short appropriate name. The United States of America is a mouthful. United Statesers lacks full meaning. Yankee of course is discarded.

As the other nations of America grow in importance and population it may become possible for the people of the United States to seek a definite name other than America and Americans.



OFFICERS OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, 1931

PRESIDENT:

Major V. Maclean Howard, 82 Hudson Drive, Toronto.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Mr. J. A. C. Cameron, K. C., Temple Bldg., Toronto.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mrs. E. T. Reburn, 67 Dunvegan Road, Toronto.
Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., Court House, Belleville, Ont.
Mr. E. H. H. Lester, 127 Rose Park Drive, Toronto.
Mr. F. M. Baker, 45 Colborne Street, Toronto.
Mr. J. R. Roaf, K.C., 95 King Street East, Toronto.

HON. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Capt. Horace H. Van Wart, 609 National Bldg., Toronto.

HON. RECORDING SECRETARY:

Mr. H. K. Thompson, 696 Mt. Pleasant Road Toronto.

HON. TREASURER:

Major W. E. Cusler, M.C., 426 Willard Ave., Toronto.

CHAPLAIN:

Rev. H. V. Thompson, Erindale, Ont.

STANDARD-BEARER:

Mrs V. C. Canavan, 111 Howland Avenue, Toronto.

LEGAL ADVISOR (GENEALOGIST):

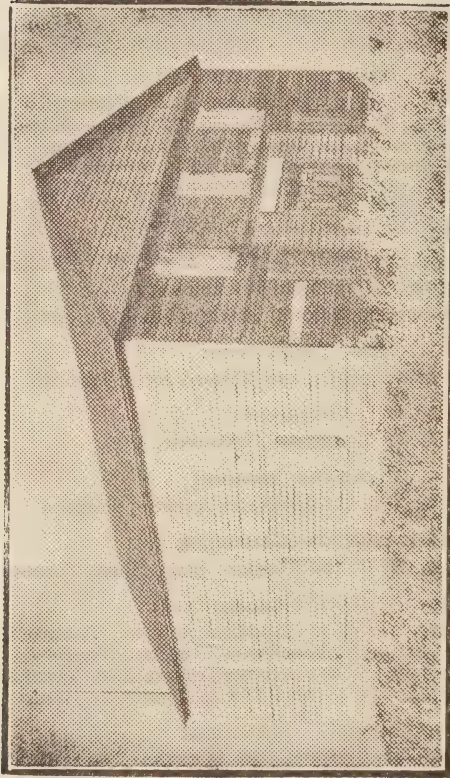
Mr. W. S. Morden, K. C. 172 Roxboro Street East, Toronto.

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE:

Mr. A. E. A. Maclaurin, 713 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Mrs. Frank Egerton, 81 Beachview Crescent, Toronto.
Mr. W. S. Morden, K C, 172 Roxboro street East, Toronto.
Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., Court House, Belleville, Ont.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS:

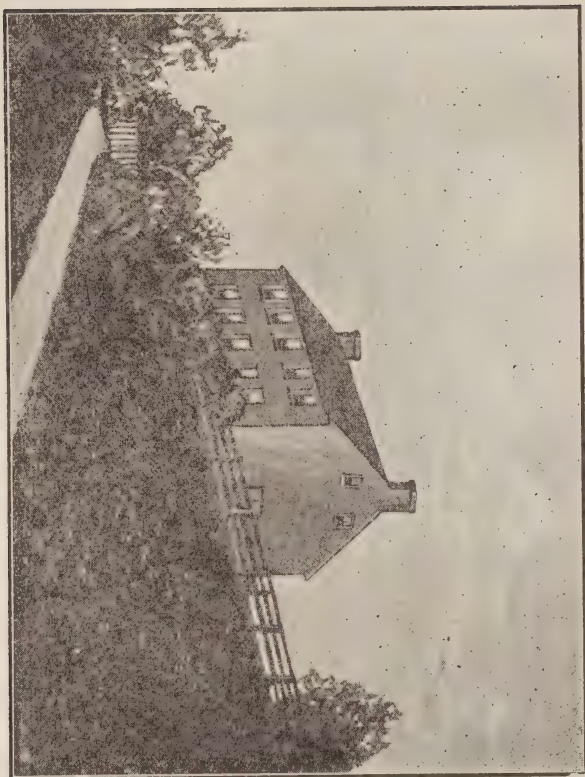
Mrs Sidney Farmer, 317 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto.
Mr. Gregory Merritt, 47 Orchard View Blvd, Toronto.
Miss Mary Pickford, 99 St. George Street, Toronto.
Mrs J. A. Harvey, Harcroft, Swansea, Ont.
Mrs. B. W. Rogers, 47 Orchard View Blvd, Toronto.
Mr A. E. King, 42 Playter Blvd., Toronto.
Mr. Stanely Mills, 440 Queen Street, Hamilton, Ont.
Mr. John Servos, 451 Davenport Road, Toronto.
Dr. S. L. Spicer, M.D., 135 Jane Street, Toronto.



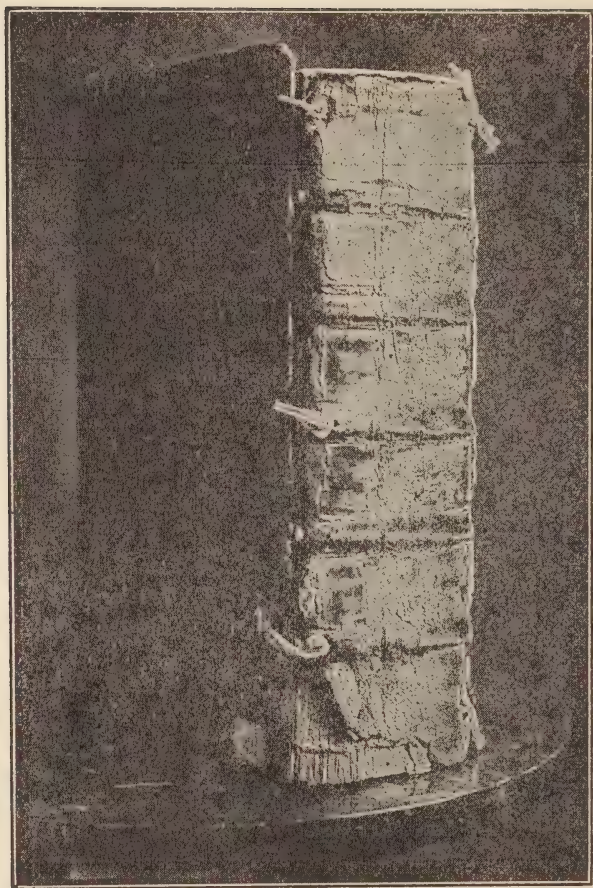
CHURCH

Old church erected at Hay Bay, Township of Adolphustown 1792 by the original U. E. Loyalists.

HOUSE




* Home of the late Captain John Walden-Meyers U. E. L. erected on Meyer's Creek now the City of Belleville, 1794, on Mount Pleasant Road. The first brick house erected in Upper Canada. Prior to 1816 Belleville was known as Meyer's Creek so called after the above named progressive citizen.



BIBLE

Family Bible 231 years old owned by Godlove Mikel, original U.E. Loyalist who came to Canada with the Royal Regiment of New York after the close of the American Revolutionary War. He died October 25, 1830, and his remains are buried in the old Albury Cemetery, Township of Ameliasburg, County of Prince Edward.





WC MIKEL EXAMINING
234 YEAR-OLD FAMILY
BIBLE.

RET. TO
A. COLE
BELLEVILLE
247 Coleman St.

